

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

TIME LIMIT FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Sir, I would like to make a suggestion in connection with the time allotted for the discussion of demands. Yesterday some of us were not able to speak on the demand under general administration. I would suggest that if two demands are considered together we will get sufficient time to speak.

President : I have absolutely no objection to the honourable members collaborating with each other and concentrating themselves on certain demands. It happened yesterday that though one hour was devoted for Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory no honourable member spoke. If honourable members, as a convention, collaborate together, I can simply shut my eyes to the excess of time. All that I have to do is to see that by tomorrow evening all the grants are finished. If honourable members will tell me what they wish to do, before lunch time, I have no objection to adopting such a procedure.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, for Police, Courts and Jails much time may not be required and these three may be taken together.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Sir, Administration of Justice and Jails may be considered together so that we will get two hours and Police and Ports may be considered together.

President : If that is the view of the House I have no objection.

MOTION RE. DEMISE OF MARQUESS OF WILLINGDON.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, I rise to move : That this Council places on record its deep sense of loss at the demise of the Marquess of Willingdon at this critical juncture in the history of the Empire, and requests the President to convey its condolence to the Marchioness of Willingdon.

Sir, the foundation-stone of this Legislative Chamber was laid by the late Marquess of Willingdon. He visited Travancore first as the Governor of Madras and later on as Viceroy of India. There may be one or two opinions regarding his political career as a Viceroy in India. But nobody, I am sure will contest the point that all things considered he was one of the best friends of India. It is also a matter to be noted that he was one of the few commoners who has been raised to the rank of peer in recent years. His

[Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

service as a diplomat and as a servant of the Empire cannot be denied even by his enemies as being anything but most distinguished. At a time when there is dearth of experienced men and when there is necessity for people who are rich in experience, his death is a serious loss. He has been ailing for a few days from double pneumonia and this morning we were told on the radio that he passed away. His death perhaps was not unexpected—a man of his age suffering from double pneumonia might be expected to succumb. All the same, it is with deep regret that this Council records its sense of loss at this critical juncture of such an eminent statesman of the British Empire. Sir, I request you to convey the sincere condolences of this Council to the Marchioness of Willingdon.

Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): Sir, I second the motion, associating myself with all the sentiments expressed by my friend Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail: Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapally, Karthigapally and Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai*): Sir, I also support the motion and in doing so I wish to make one or two observations. Sir, it is not given to many Englishmen to guide the destinies of India for such a considerable period as it was given to Marquess of Willingdon. He was first the Governor of Bombay, then the Governor of Madras and afterwards he became the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. He visited Travancore and laid the foundation stone of this Council Chamber and because of this there is great propriety in this honourable house placing this condolence motion on record and bemoaning his loss. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the mover and fervently pray so that the great soul of this distinguished statesman and benefactor of India may rest in peace.

Mr. T. W. U. Park (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I also support the motion and wish to associate myself with the tribute that is being paid to a great servant of the Crown, a great friend of India and a great English gentleman.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicclam*): Sir, I also wish to associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed by the previous speakers.

President: I am overwhelmed by a sense of personal loss and I can hardly trust myself to do justice to the task which devolves on me.

Ever since he landed in India as the Governor of Bombay I was honoured by the intimate friendship of Lord Willingdon; and it was my privilege, as it was my opportunity, to serve as his

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colleague non-officially in the Legislative Council of Madras and officially as his Advocate-General and Member of Council in Madras and later on as Law Member and as Commerce Member in the Government of India, and still later, as a member of the Wheeler Committee which, at his instance, toured round India for the purpose of regularising official recruitment and official procedure. To him as well as to three other persons of English nationality I owe a very great deal; and those four are Lord Chelmsford, Mr. Montagu, Dr. Besant and Lord Willingdon. And in bemoaning the loss of Lord Willingdon I lament the demise of one whom I have regarded as a kind of elder brother or uncle; and my honourable colleagues will therefore forgive me if I am unable to do justice to the qualities of a person with whom I am so closely connected in feeling and sentiment that I cannot speak with adequate detachment or without emotion.

He underwent his political apprenticeship under his father-in-law Lord Brassey of whom he was the Aide-de-camp when he was Governor of Victoria. There after, he was for ten years a member of Parliament, four of which were spent as one of the junior Lords of the Treasury. He functioned as Governor of Bombay at a time when war was raging; and due to his wonderful skill in organisation, aided as it was by the dynamic and vital qualities of his consort, Lady Willingdon, Bombay made a show during the late war, which was unique and spectacular. He thereafter came to Madras and occupied the Governorship of Madras for five years, during three of which I was his colleague. And those who have realised what he was able to do during this time and what under the blessings of Providence it was given to me to do under his guidance should realise also that the Mettur Scheme, the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme, the first ideas as to the Tungabhadra Scheme, the Vizagapatam Harbour, the Tuticorin Harbour and the Cochin Harbour and the Bhavani Irrigation Scheme—all these schemes in which I was in one way or another associated—owed their inception to the inspiration and the sustained help of Lord Willingdon, owed their continuance to his continuous support amidst obloquy, abuse and criticism, owed their success to that daring imagination and the idealism which along with rare practicality was united in Lord Willingdon. After that, he went to Canada as Viceroy and after finishing his work in Canada he came as the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

It is not open to me to disclose all the steps that were taken by Lord Willingdon, some of which were successful, some alas! not so successful, to bring various political parties together, to weld the communities into one, and to make India a self-respecting and

[President,]

Great unit of the British Commonwealth. He was a strong administrator and he encountered some unpopularity during his Viceroyalty. But even those who were most critical of his achievements could not deny him a unique and gracious charm of manner, a willingness to let bygones be bygones and feeling of sportsmanship—he played cricket all his life—which were the distinguishing marks of Lord Willingdon. After his Viceroyalty he fulfilled many diplomatic missions. Even before then he had gone to China in connection with the Boxer Indemnity. After that he proceeded to the League of Nations; and lastly he toured in the Western Hemisphere at great risk of his health, and he himself wrote to me that he was undertaking the South American tour although his doctors advised him against it because he felt that at this time the England which he loved so much needed all the help that could be given in every sphere, diplomatic and otherwise. He toured practically through the whole of the South American Continent and he came back a sick man and he is now no more. He literally died a martyr to his devotion to duty.

Having said all this, I have left to the very end two things most worth mentioning to this House. One is that in a long and varied acquaintance with many men, many statesmen of various countries, I have never come across one who had less of the superiority complex in him. To him there was no difference between Indian and European. The sense of comradeship and fellow-feeling which he displayed, the sense of absolute equality which he evinced on every occasion are great examples for others to follow. They do not always follow that example. Lord Willingdon made it a rule in the Government House in Madras, which he maintained in the Government House and Viceroy's House at Delhi, never to invite the members of one community alone to a party however small. If there was a dinner party of three, there must be at least one Indian. If there was a dinner party for Indians alone, there will be at least one or two Europeans also. He made it a regular rule of his life not only to treat all the races alike but to make it clear that he wanted others to do so. His example was amongst the great things which have gone to make for that assertion of Indian self-respect and dignity which along with great men like Mahatma Gaudhi and Rabindranath Tagore, Lord Willingdon was responsible for.

My last words will be to point out that Lord Willingdon throughout his life was a staunch and unflinching friend of Indian States and Indian India. He was especially a friend of Travancore. The Royal Family of Travancore was united to him by ties of close friendship and amity. In Lord Willingdon, Travancore—and this

will be fully clear only when the time comes for confidential matters to be disclosed without detriment to public interests—had a tried and trusted friend who stood by Travancore, fought for Travancore and championed Travancore's cause amidst opposition. And it is only elementary gratitude on the part of Travancore and the institutions of Travancore to realise this and to place on record our sense of the irreparable loss sustained at this juncture by the loss of one who was a great gentleman and a great friend of India.

The motion was carried *nem con* the House standing.

DEMAND XIV—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—Rs. 10,65,073.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 10,65,073 under Demand XIV—Administration of Justice.

President: What is the opinion of the honourable House as regards discussing Demands XIV and XV together?

The House expressed its assent to the two demands being discussed together.

President: I think it is better for the Chief Secretary to move the Demand relating to the Jail Department.

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,15,197 under Demand XV—Jails.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai (*Kalkulam and Vilavancod cum Neyyattinkara*): In that case may I know whether the time limit for the discussion of the two demands will be enhanced.

President: That will depend on the nature of the debate. If we are satisfied with the debate I will wake up to the lapse of time.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I support the demand. In supporting the demand, I wish to say that capital punishment in the State may be abolished. I understand that there are six cells in the Central Jail for condemned prisoners. These six cells might have been constructed because the Government at the time might have thought that there would not be more than six needed at any time in the State. But I hear there are several persons now waiting outside who might be called to this cell one after the other. I do not know whether that is due to the fact that criminals have increased in this State to a very large extent or because the Courts of Justice have become more strict in their administration of justice. I therefore plead, Sir, that because Travancore is moving with the times, it should also abolish capital punishment. I understand that in several American States, capital punishment has been abolished.